On February 16, 1970, the WORLD BANK made a loan of $25 million which will contribute to industrial development in Northeast Brazil, a major policy objective of the Government of Brazil to improve economic conditions in this large and populous region. The loan was made to the Banco do Nordeste do Brasil, S.A. (BNB) to provide it with foreign currency resources to cover the import component of its financing of private industrial enterprises in the Northeast. It will be the first WORLD BANK loan to a development finance company in Brazil.

The Government of Brazil has for several years been carrying out a coordinated program for industrial and agricultural development in the Northeast. This region, with 27 million inhabitants, or about a third of the total population, until a few years ago progressed more slowly than the rest of the country and per capita income is only about two-thirds of the national average. The Government program has met with considerable success.

Among those present at the signing of the loan documents were, from left to right: His Excellency Mozart Gurgel Valente, Ambassador of Brazil to the United States; His Excellency Col. Jose Costa Cavalcanti, Minister of the Interior of Brazil; Mr. Robert S. McNamara, President of WORLD BANK; and Mr. Rubens Vaz da Costa, President, Banco do Nordeste do Brasil. Standing in same order: Mr. Thomas M. Clyde, Miss M. Elisabeth Poppele and Mrs. Larissa Steiner, all of the Legal Department of WORLD BANK.

Photo: Edwin G. Huffman for WORLD BANK